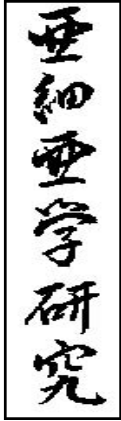


Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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<http://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/newsletter>



History Welcomes Southeast Asia Scholar

This year the History Department welcomes Jennifer Gaynor, an anthropologist and historian specializing in Southeast Asia and Indonesia. Gaynor received her doctorate in Anthropology and History from the University of Michigan. Over the course of her life she has lived in Japan twice and in Indonesia for an accumulated four years. Her research interests include the social and cultural history of modern Indonesia and maritime Southeast Asia, the reproduction and transformation of social inequality, and memory. Recently she published a chapter entitled "Maritime Ideologies and Ethnic Anomalies: Sea Space and the Structure of Subalternity in the Southeast Asian Littoral," in *Seascapes: Maritime Histories, Littoral Cultures and Transoceanic Exchanges*.

Her talk entitled "Narrative Transformation in Sama Social Memory" draws on her research experience in Indonesia. She will be speaking Friday, October 5, at noon in 1004 Clemens.



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North Korea's Nuclear Ambition

Tae-Hyung Kim will be speaking on Friday, November 2, in Park 280 at Asia@Noon. He received his doctorate from the Political Science Department at the University of Kentucky and teaches at Daemon College. His research interests include security matters and Northeast Asia.

Kim's talk is entitled "North Korea's Nuclear Ambition: Choice or Necessity?" North Korea's announcement of a nuclear test last October sent an instant shock wave around the world. The event also threatened the utility and validity of the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Six-Party Talks. Although a diplomatic effort of the Six Parties last February resulted in North Korea's agreement to begin denuclearization in exchange for energy assistance, suspicions and doubts regarding the disarming process remain high. In this presentation, he will address the reasons behind Pyongyang's decision to go nuclear. Kim's focus will be on "national security conception", an approach elaborated by Jacques Hymans to explain nuclear proliferation (or lack thereof). Kim will then lay out policy options proposed by academics and policy-makers to resolve the crisis, analyzing their strengths and shortfalls. Getting rid of the causes of North Korea's nuclear armament may not assure Pyongyang shuts down its weapons program, but it will be an important starting point. Kim's own policy recommendations, which could make North Korea's "nuclear reversal" permanent, will follow.



Club Spotlight

Korean Folk Art Club

The Korean Folk Art Club, also known as So-Ri-Mo-Ri, is a UB Student Association-recognized club. KFAC focuses on promoting traditional and modern Korean folk art, through learning and practicing the traditional Korean farm dance known as *poong-mul*. The club's main goal is to reach people with a part of Korean culture and through that to learn and experience the unity of the club.

KFAC offers many performances throughout the year. For the past several years, the members have performed for International Education Week, International Fiesta, Club Fair, Asian Bazaar, the Korean Graduate Student Association's (KOGSA) New Year's Party, the Korean Student Association's (KSA) "Korea Night" and many more. They have also performed at other schools, including Binghamton University, Syracuse University, Colgate University, Oberlin College and Niagara University, as well as for the Buffalo community.

If you are interested in joining this club, or for more information, contact club President Dong Hwi Seo at donghwi99@hotmail.com.

UBAnime

UBAnime Club is dedicated to Japanese animation in all its forms: movies, TV series, original animation videos, *manga*, music, etc. The club meets every Tuesday evening starting at 8:20 in Student Union 330. Each week the club features four episodes of a Japanese *anime* TV series or a movie, all in the original Japanese with English subtitles.

In addition, after the regular meeting, interested viewers can stay to watch continuing episodes of a single series that will run from the first meeting through the last, allowing members to watch an entire series over the course of the semester. In addition to watching *anime* the club also has Sushi Nights, participates in UBCon and has overnight *anime* marathons once a semester.

For more information contact club President Noah Kohles at nrkohles@buffalo.edu or visit the club website at <http://ubanime.buffalo.edu>.

Asian American Model Minority Myth Group

The Asian American Model Minority Myth Group is an association of graduate students interested in sharing research findings and expertise concerning Asian and Asian American issues in the United States and Asian diaspora across the world. Group members take turns presenting their own research, read classic and emergent scholarly books and articles in related fields, and bring in speakers from the UB community and from elsewhere in the United States and around the world. The group includes several faculty members from the University at Buffalo's various schools who support their activities and join in events.

Contact group President Rima Aranha at raaranha@buffalo.edu for more information or visit the group's website at <http://www.gsa.buffalo.edu/AAMMM/>.

Chinese SA

The Chinese Student Association is dedicated to introducing Chinese intellectual and cultural heritage, to fostering closer fellowship among Chinese and Chinese American Students, to promoting social and cultural activities and to increasing mutual understanding among Chinese and Chinese American Students, the UB community, and other international students.

For more information, contact club President Samantha Luk at yuenluk@buffalo.edu or email the executive board at ubcsacabinet@yahoo.com.

Asia at Noon in October

Asia at Noon, a brown bag event, is UB's leading forum for ideas and discussion of issues related to Asia. It meets selected Fridays from 12:00 to 1:00.

- October 5, 1004 Clemens. **Jennifer Gaynor**, Assistant Professor of History. *Narrative Transformation and Sama Social Memory*.

Gaynor takes a comparative look at Sama stories about the past and analyzes how the differences between shorter oral versions and more elaborated oral narrative and manuscript versions reveal a process of narrative transformation. She argues that histories of subordination often appear as stories of good fortune that eventuate in affiliation with the royalty of other descent groups and in the inter-ethnic public recognition of the elite Sama lineage of the protagonist. This being the case, the stories provide an indirect method for reaching good historical conjectures about the Sama past where the historical record is practically silent, and for making observations about the formation of Sama social memory.

- October 19, Park 280. **Craig Preston**, Visiting Professor of Asian Studies. *The Nirvana Track: Becoming a Top Scholar in Tibet*.

As a child, Craig Preston liked to look at old *National Geographic* articles on Tibet, wondering what the monks were reading on the long, narrow pages printed from woodblocks. Over the years he has spent quite a bit of time with those documents. In this talk he will share a bit of what he has learned about the training top scholars received at the major monastic colleges around Lhasa, Tibet. He introduces the three main features of Tibetan scholastic education: memorization, explanation of the texts the tradition holds as formative through commentary, and the investigation of their meaning through dialectical debate. Preston will talk about the core curriculum of the five great texts—five Indian Buddhist treatises, each of which supports an entire field of inquiry. Finally, he will talk about the period of preliminary study and the cognitive maps learned as preparation for the study of the five major texts. He will keep the discussion as non-technical as possible so everyone can get the flavor of the scholastic education top scholars receive.

Shaolin Warriors

The Center for the Arts will be hosting the Shaolin Warriors on Monday, November 19th, at 8pm. Tickets are \$22 for general admission and \$10 for students.

The fully choreographed theatrical production will include disciples of the Shaolin schools, known for their disciplined and deadly martial arts prowess. These Kung Fu masters have trained from a very young age in mental and physical disciplines, which allow them to perform feats seemingly only possible in the movies. The production features many forms of Shaolin Kung Fu as well as a look at the daily life of the warriors and their Chan (Zen) philosophy.



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Asian Studies Calendar

October

- Oct. 1. Deadline for advance registration for NYCAS 2007 at Binghamton University, October 26-27. The theme of the conference is "Decentering Asia."
- Oct. 2, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. Haiku Poetry Reading and Lecture by Dennis Maloney and J. Cushman. Gallery behind TruTeas, 810 Elmwood Ave.
- Oct. 5, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Jennifer Gaynor**, Assistant Professor of History. "Narrative Transformation and Sama Social Memory." 1004 Clemens.
- Oct. 9, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. Screening and discussion of Akira Kurosawa's *Ikiru*. Market Arcade Film & Arts Center, 639 Main Street.
- Oct. 19, Friday 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Craig Preston**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian Studies. "The Nirvana Track: Becoming a Top Scholar in Tibet." Park 280.
- Oct. 26, Friday, 7:00-10:00 pm. Moon Viewing Festival. Japanese Garden, Behind the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, 25 Nottingham Court. (For more information: <http://yearofjapan.org/calendar.html#moon>)
- Nov. 3, Saturday, 11:00 am–2:00 pm. *Matsuri* – Festival of Japanese Folk Art. Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, 25 Nottingham Court.
- Nov. 9, Friday, 2:00 pm. **Susan Napier**, Professor of Japanese Language and Literature at Tufts University. "Anime and Visual Culture: Is Animation the Medium for the 21st Century?" CFA Screening Room.
- Nov. 9, Friday, 6:30-9:00 pm. **Gusto at the Gallery**. Japanese culture exhibition including showing of *Millennium Actress*, introduced by Susan Napier. Albright-Knox Art Gallery.
- Nov. 16, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Chris Johnston**, Ph.D. candidate in Geography and President of the World Trade Center Buffalo/Niagara. "Chinese Direct Investment in North America: Geographies, Industries, and Strategies." Park 280.
- Nov. 27, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. Screening and discussion of Elia Suleiman's *Divine Intervention*. Market Arcade Film & Arts Center, 639 Main Street.
- Nov. 28, Wednesday. 7:00 pm. Japanese Mime and Dance Performance and Workshop by the Yass Hakoshima Movement Theatre. Center for the Arts. Drama Theater.

November

- Nov. 2, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Tae-Hyung Kim**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Daemen College. "North Korea's Nuclear Ambition: Choice or Necessity?" Park 280.
- Dec. 4, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. Screening and discussion of Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Market Arcade Film & Arts Center, 639 Main Street.

December



Asian Studies Notes

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